

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 with the following paragraph:

However, in cases where the electrostatic recording material is located, for example, vertically as described above, since the electrostatic recording material is supported merely by the thin glass substrate, if end regions of the electrostatic recording material are merely held by holding means, the middle region of the electrostatic recording material will bend. As a result, the problems will occur in that the distance between a reading light source and the electrostatic recording material varies for different sites on the electrostatic recording material, and sharpness of an image, which is obtained from an operation for reading out the electrostatic latent image from the electrostatic recording material, becomes partially low. The decrease in the image sharpness presents a very real problem in the chest image recording and read-out apparatus, and the like, which should yield an accurate image appropriate for the use as a medical image. Also, the problems occur in that thin glass substrate has a low strength and breaks when certain impacts are given to the chest image recording and read-out apparatus, and the like.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15 with the following paragraph:

Figure 3A is a front view showing the image detector 10 at the imaging section 4, the glass substrate 5 for supporting the image detector 10, the base plate 6, and the case housing 2, which front view is taken from the side of the image detector 10. Figure 3B is a sectional view taken on line B-B of Figure 3A. Figure 3C is a sectional view taken on line C-C of Figure 3A.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/834,942

As illustrated in Figures 3A, 3B, and 3C, the base plate 6 supports the glass substrate 5, on which the image detector 10 has been formed. Ordinarily, the glass substrate 5 has a thickness of at most 1.1 mm and is thus markedly thin. The base plate 6 is constituted of a sufficiently thick glass plate, such that the base plate 6 does not bend when the base plate 6 is located vertically as illustrated in Figures 3A, 3B, and 3C. In this embodiment, the base plate 6 has a thickness of at least 5mm. The base plate 6 has permeability with respect to the light radiated out from a reading exposure light source and light radiated out from a pre-exposure light source. Also, the base plate 6 has a refractive index and a coefficient of thermal expansion, which are approximately identical with the refractive index and the coefficient of thermal expansion of the glass substrate 5. Further, in order for light loss and stray light due to reflection of the reading light to be prevented from occurring, an anti-reflection (AR) coating film is formed on a reading light entry face 6a of the base plate 6. The base plate 6 and the glass substrate 5 are adhered to each other with an adhesive agent, such as an epoxy resin or Canada balsam. As illustrated in Figures 3A, 3B, and 3C, four corner regions, right and left side regions, and a bottom region of the base plate 6 are fitted into a fitting member 7 constituted of a metal, or the like, and the base plate 6 is thus reinforced and secured to the case housing 2. A space 8, through which the TAB film 32 for connecting the image detector 10 and the printed-circuit board 31 to each other passes, is formed between the top region of the base plate 6 and the fitting member 7. Specifically, as illustrated in Figure 3B, the space 8 is formed between the top region of the base plate 6, which top region extends above the image detector 10, and the fitting member 7. Also as illustrated in Figure 3C, the upper right corner region of the base plate 6 shown in Figure 3A is fitted into the fitting member 7.